

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant

PIN	4398	COUNTY	Madera
APPLICANT	Madera County	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$500,000
PROJECT TITLE	Eastern Madera County Water Management Plan	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$725,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Implement a comprehensive, broad-based water management planning process for Eastern Madera County Region focusing on issues common to hard-rock fracture regions with high projected growth and development. These efforts will result in a IRWMP that is acknowledged and supported by the community, and will be adopted and implemented by appropriate agencies.

WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.

Score: 9

Comment: The application proposes perform a general evaluation of water conditions in Eastern Madera County, with specific areas to be studied in greater detail than others. There is some confusion over the "Study Area" in the geographic sense and in the topical sense. The work plan contains specific work items, a schedule, and a budget. It is difficult to determine if the work plan, schedule, and budget are consistent. In the budget there are no units or unit costs presented for many of the tasks. It is difficult to tie information presented in the detailed budget tables to the budget sheet. The schedule fits within the proper timeframe but lacks detail. The minimum time period per task of three months is vague. The applicant states that they would use: 1) an existing LGA grant as part of the funding match, which is not allowed, and 2) funding from the Picayane Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, who objected to use of a portion of their funds for this proposal.

DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The region is described on the basis of being outside of a recognized groundwater basin (fractured bedrock), within eastern Madera County. Water problems and needs of the communities are discussed. Such problems and needs include water quality and quantity resource issues. Maps are presented which show the area and general location of stakeholders. The maps fall a little short of showing boundaries of the regional agencies/entities and their jurisdictions. Concepts of special biological significance are discussed. This proposal meets all of the required criteria but lacks information explaining the benefits for defining this region in this manner and managing water within an IRWMP versus individual efforts.

OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: The application presents a long list of objectives that appear to include "everything for everybody" relating to water in eastern Madera County and therefore may not be practical. It is difficult to see how the proposed IRWMP will address all of the listed objectives. Discussion regarding statewide priorities is lacking.

INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: This proposal includes many strategies for integration but should have gone into more depth about each strategy. The applicant discusses multiple points of interrelation concerning increasing water supply and reliability, increasing water resources through fuels reduction, ecosystem restoration and habitat improvement, recreation, public access and flood control. In the work plan; however, the only mention of integration is listed under a task for data integration.

IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 10

Comment: This IRWMP would be developed over a two year period. A general schedule is provided for when individual aspects of the IRWMP would be implemented after adoption. Several committees will be used to oversee aspects of the IRWMP. The IRWMP would also include that each item has an associated responsible agency/department. The Madera County Board of Supervisors has indicated they will make the IRWMP part of the General Plan. Implementation criteria are met by this proposal and mechanisms will be in place for oversight and modification during IRWMP implementation.

IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.

Score: 8

Comment: This application provides a long list of benefits that the planning process and implementation of the IRWMP will provide. However, impacts receive little or no mention. CEQA will be addressed when the IRWMP is adopted as part of Madera County's General Plan. No process was identified in this proposal to analyze potential impacts from the IRWMP on the region and the surrounding area.

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DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 5

Comment: The applicant states that existing data, where available will be utilized, and includes such studies as *The Fresno River Nutrient Reduction Study*, a current LGA study, and more. Studies have been and are proposed that will support the IRWMP. Current existing data supports planning; several items are referred to in the proposal and a list of technical studies is presented to fill in current data gaps.

DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: Existing and future GIS systems are mentioned in the data management section of the application. These systems are proposed to be used by the applicant and the public through a web based system. One concern with the data management component is that this task is not clearly addressed or represented in the detailed work plan, schedule, or budget, so it is difficult to assess whether it will actually be a part of the project. The applicant would contract with CSU Fresno's GIS department to produce a web based map program that would offer relevant information obtained from the IRWMP to various entities. Statewide data needs would be accommodated with easy accessibility of the data through the GIS system. While Statewide data needs are addressed they are not supported with sufficient justification.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: Existing and future stakeholder groups would be involved during the preparation and implementation of the proposed IRWMP. The stakeholder groups include a wide range of organizations and agencies but DFG is not listed as a Stakeholder in this proposal. This is important because several of the management strategies include ecosystem and stream improvement where DFG has a stake in water strategies from a wildlife perspective. Environmental justice concerns are mentioned in the application.

DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 5

Comment: The applicant identifies Oakhurst and North Fork as DACs and that these communities have water quality and quantity issues. This application contains projects that would directly benefit these DACs. Representatives from the DACs include the Oakhurst Community Action Committee, the North Fork Community Development Council, and the North Fork Mono Rancheria Tribal Council.

RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 5

Comment: A series of local planning documents are listed and explanation is sufficiently provided as to how these documents will be integrated with the proposed IRWMP. Other area plans and investigations are identified. The proposed IRWM will function like a General Plan Update for the region.

AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.

Score: 4

Comment: The proposed IRWMP is based on broad stakeholder involvement. Letters of support and commitment have been obtained from numerous groups; local, State, and federal agencies; tribes; and districts. One area that this application may be lacking is a good description of coordination with regulatory agencies. There is a sufficient level of coordination and cooperation between agencies at various levels; however DFG should be included on the list of agency participants.

TOTAL SCORE: 74